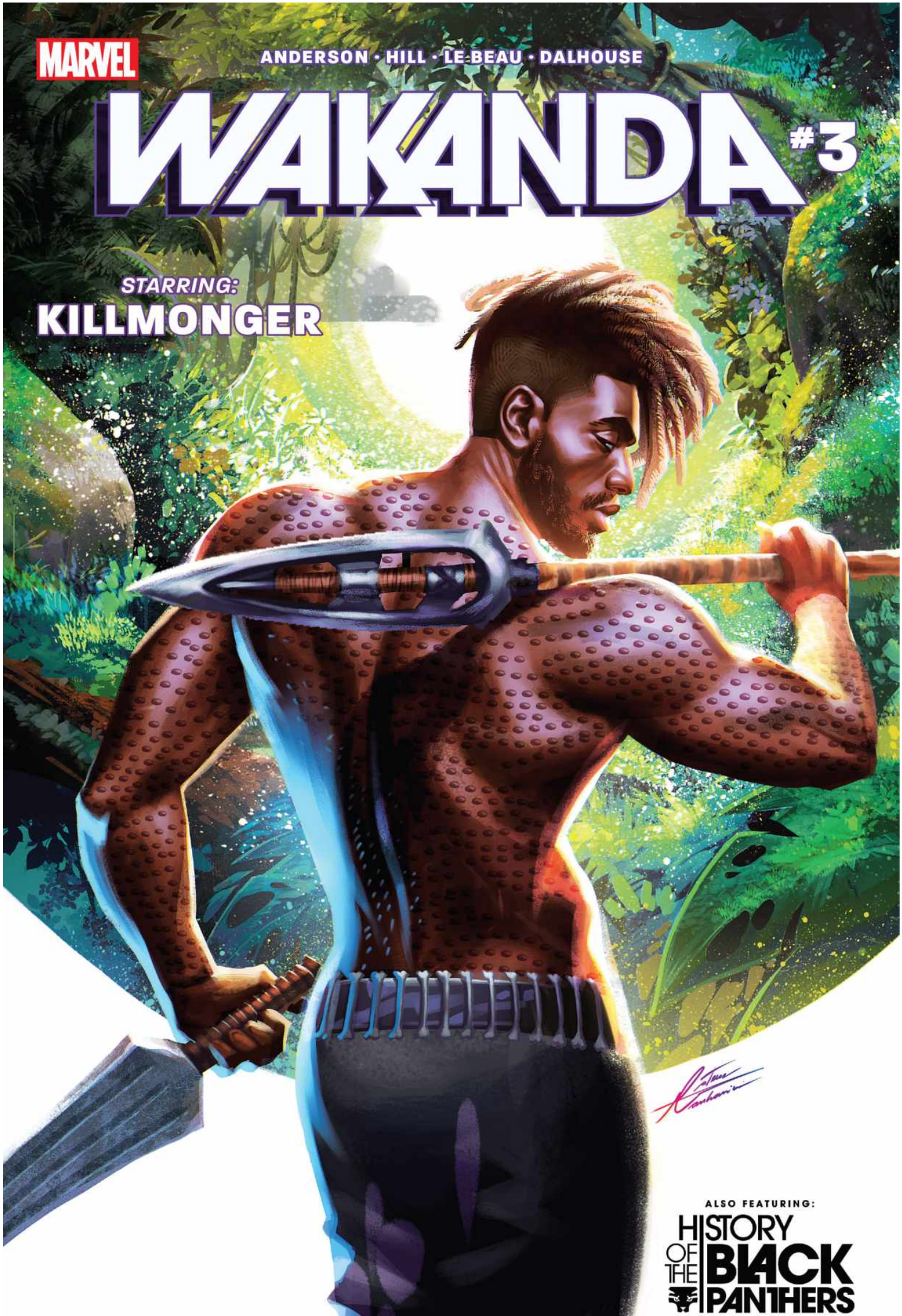
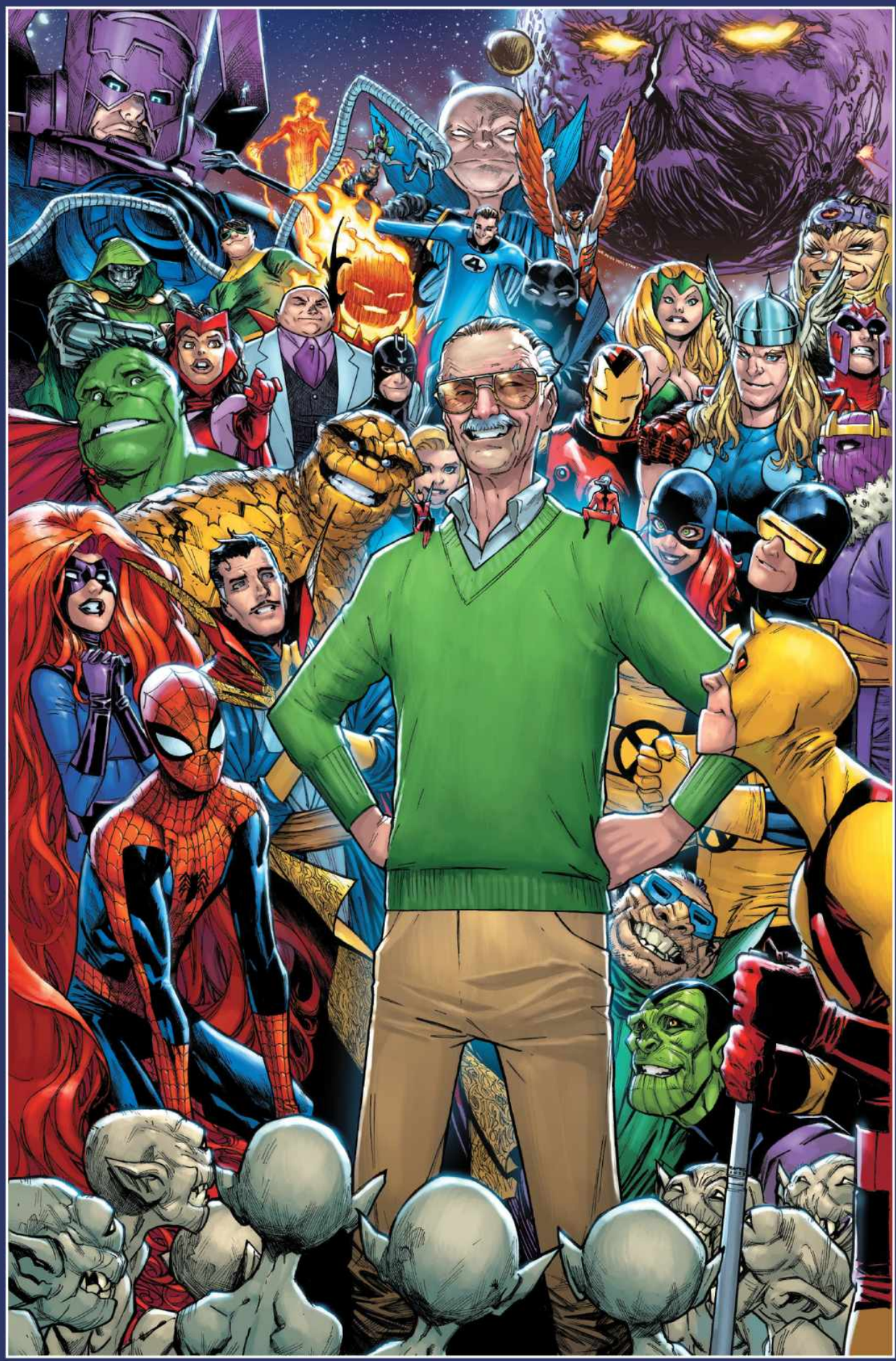

MARVEL
ANDERSON · HILL · LE-BEAU · DALHOUSE
WAKANDA #3
STARRING:
KILLMONGER
ALSO FEATURING:
HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHERS

100 YEARS AND STILL INSPIRING US ALL



WE LOVE YOU, STAN!

ERIK KILLMONGER was a mercenary and a terrorist who sought to undermine, oppose and destroy everything that the Black Panther stood for. He led many attempted coups, including one that saw him defeat T'Challa in ritual combat, though ultimately he was defeated and killed.

But before he was Killmonger, he was a young boy named **N'JADAKA** who lost his family in Ulysses Klaw's botched invasion of Wakanda. Klaw then captured N'Jadaka, and so began the journey that would shape this son of Wakanda into one of its greatest enemies.

WAKANDA

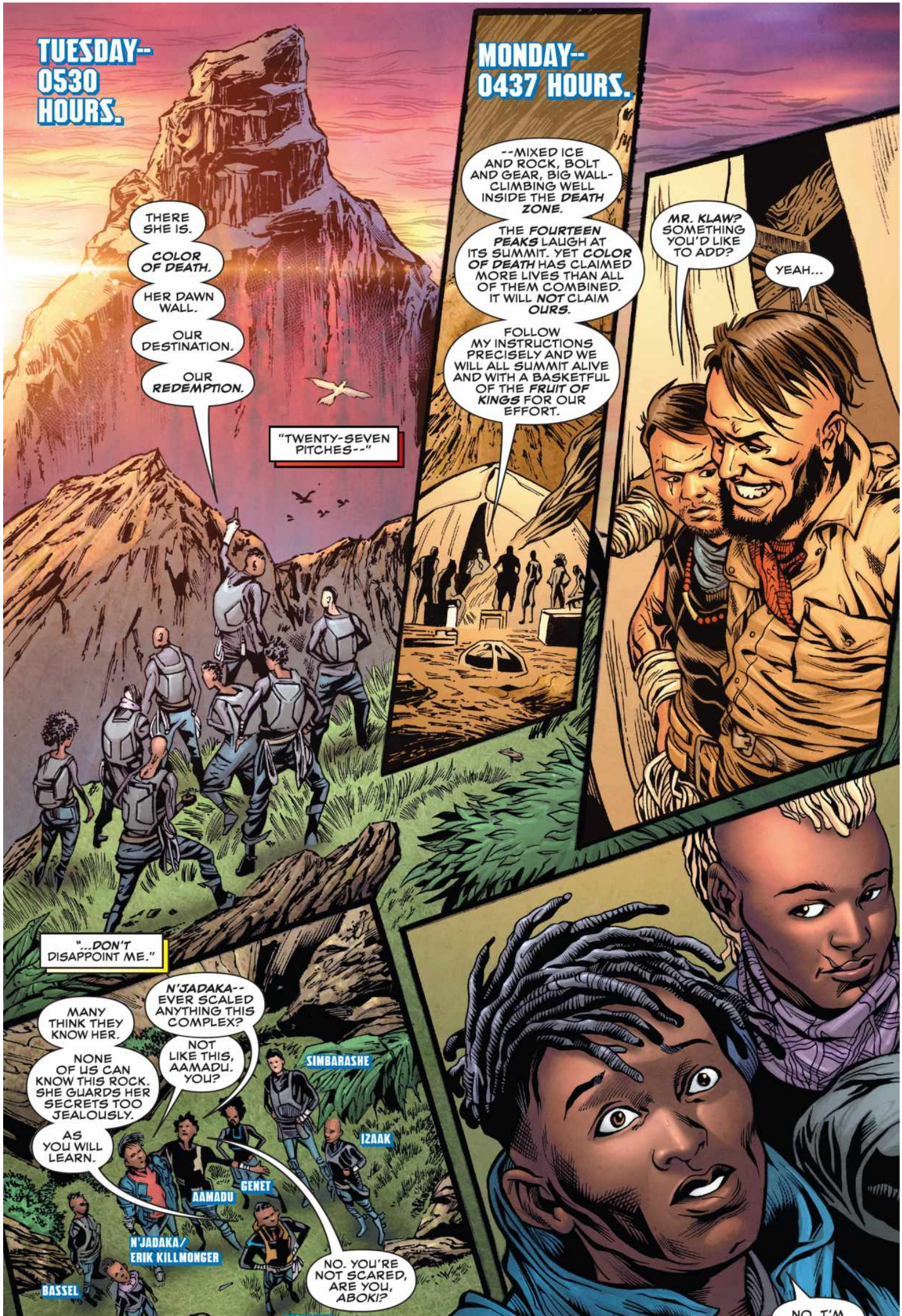
KILLMONGER IN "COLOR OF DEATH"
HO CHE ANDERSON WRITER
SEAN HILL PENCILER
LE BEAU WITH KEITH CHAMPAGNE & WALDEN WONG INKERS
ANDREW DALHOUSE COLOR ARTIST

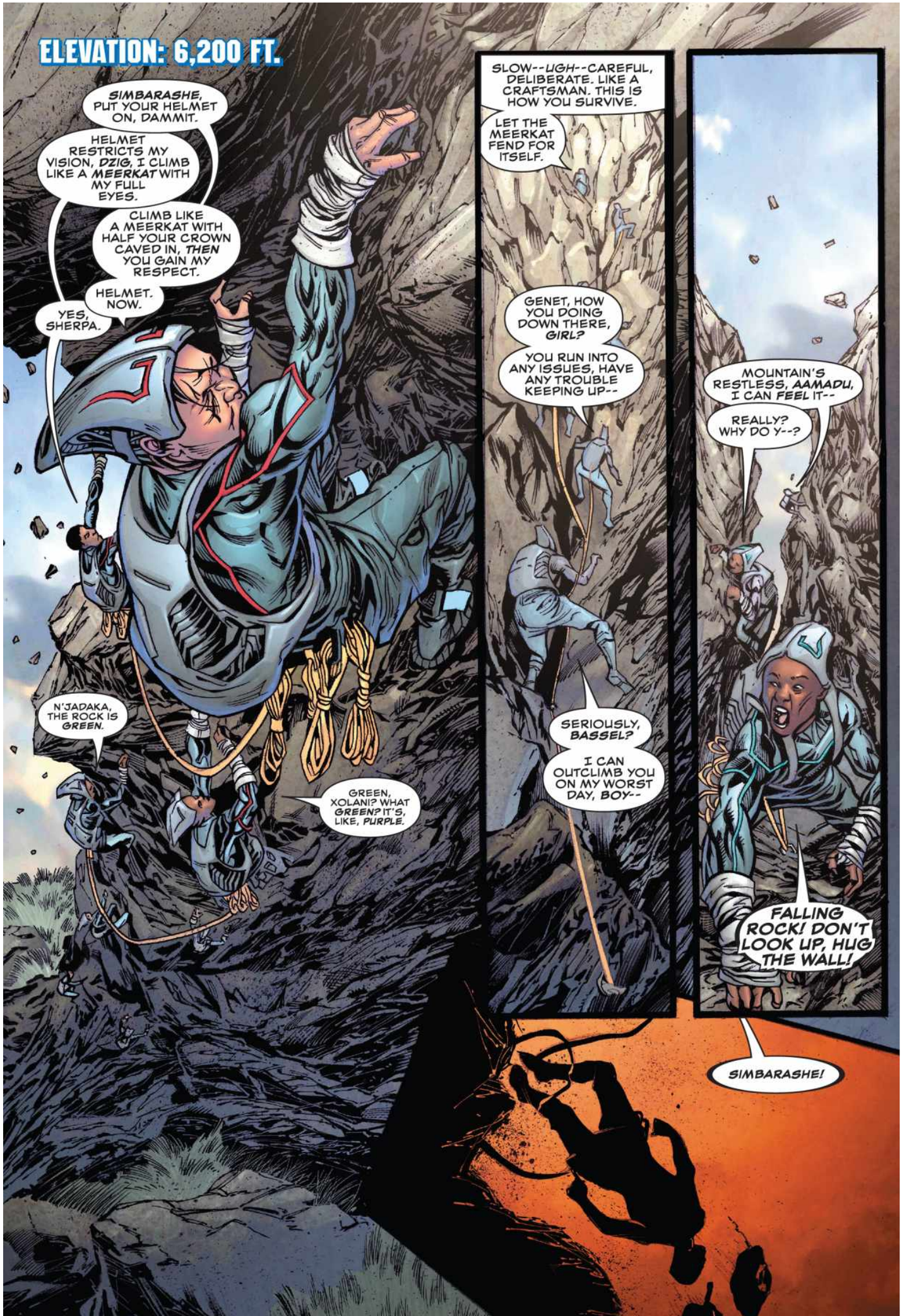
"HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHERS"
CHAPTER THREE
EVAN NARCISSE WRITER
NATACHA BUSTOS ARTIST
JORDIE BELLAIRE COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO LETTERER
MATEUS MANHANINI COVER ARTIST
IBAN COELLO & BRIAN REBER; CORY SMITH & NOLAN WOODARD VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

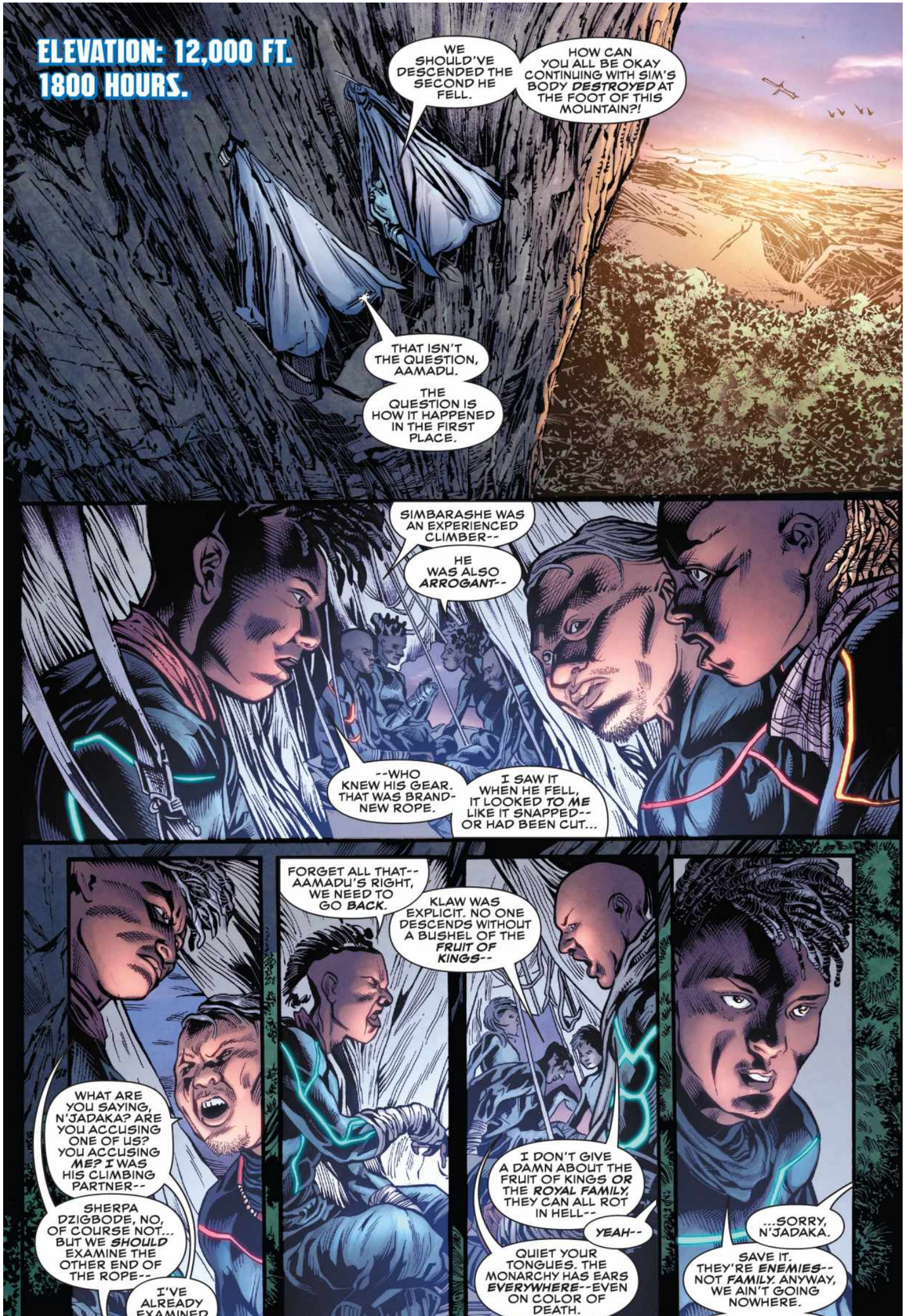
MICHELLE MARCHESE ASSISTANT EDITOR
WIL MOSS EDITOR
C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

WAKANDA CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
MAP OF WAKANDA BY ADAM SIMPSON, AS PRESENTED IN DK'S *MARVEL UNIVERSE MAP BY MAP* (2021)

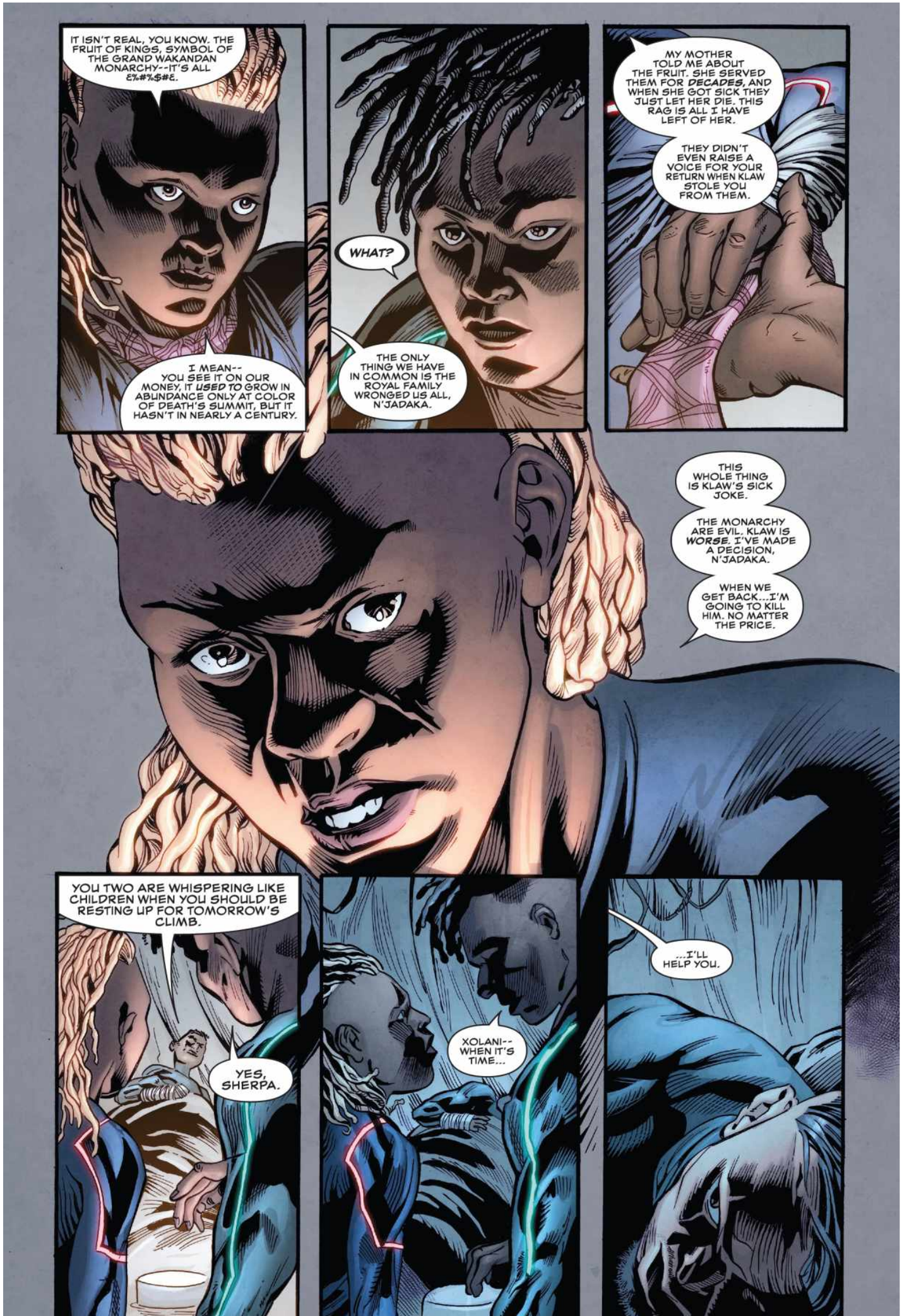

TUESDAY--
0530
HOURS.
THERE SHE IS.
COLOR OF DEATH.
HER DAWN WALL.
OUR DESTINATION.
OUR REDEMPTION.
"TWENTY-SEVEN PITCHES--"
"...DON'T DISAPPOINT ME."
MONDAY--
0437 HOURS.
--MIXED ICE AND ROCK, BOLT AND GEAR, BIG WALL-CLIMBING WELL INSIDE THE DEATH ZONE.
THE FOURTEEN PEAKS LAUGH AT ITS SUMMIT. YET COLOR OF DEATH HAS CLAIMED MORE LIVES THAN ALL OF THEM COMBINED. IT WILL NOT CLAIM OURS.
FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS PRECISELY AND WE WILL ALL SUMMIT ALIVE AND WITH A BASKETFUL OF THE FRUIT OF KINGS FOR OUR EFFORT.
MR. KLAW? SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?
YEAH...
MANY THINK THEY KNOW HER.
NONE OF US CAN KNOW THIS ROCK. SHE GUARDS HER SECRETS TOO JEALOUSLY.
AS YOU WILL LEARN.
N'JADAKA--EVER SCALED ANYTHING THIS COMPLEX?
NOT LIKE THIS, AAMADU. YOU?
SIMBARASHE
IZAAK
GENET
AAMADU
N'JADAKA/ ERIK KILLMONGER
BASSEL
NO. YOU'RE NOT SCARED, ARE YOU, ABOKI?
NO. I'M


ELEVATION: 6,200 FT.
SIMBARASHE, PUT YOUR HELMET ON, DAMMIT.
HELMET RESTRICTS MY VISION, DZIG, I CLIMB LIKE A MEERKAT WITH MY FULL EYES.
CLIMB LIKE A MEERKAT WITH HALF YOUR CROWN CAVED IN, THEN YOU GAIN MY RESPECT.
HELMET. NOW.
YES, SHERPA.
N'JADAKA, THE ROCK IS GREEN.
GREEN, XOLANI? WHAT GREEN? IT'S, LIKE, PURPLE.
SLOW--UGH--CAREFUL, DELIBERATE. LIKE A CRAFTSMAN. THIS IS HOW YOU SURVIVE.
LET THE MEERKAT FEND FOR ITSELF.
GENET, HOW YOU DOING DOWN THERE, GIRL?
YOU RUN INTO ANY ISSUES, HAVE ANY TROUBLE KEEPING UP--
SERIOUSLY, BASSEL?
I CAN OUTCLIMB YOU ON MY WORST DAY, BOY--
MOUNTAIN'S RESTLESS, AAMADU, I CAN FEEL IT--
REALLY? WHY DO Y--?
FALLING ROCK! DON'T LOOK UP, HUG THE WALL!
SIMBARASHE!

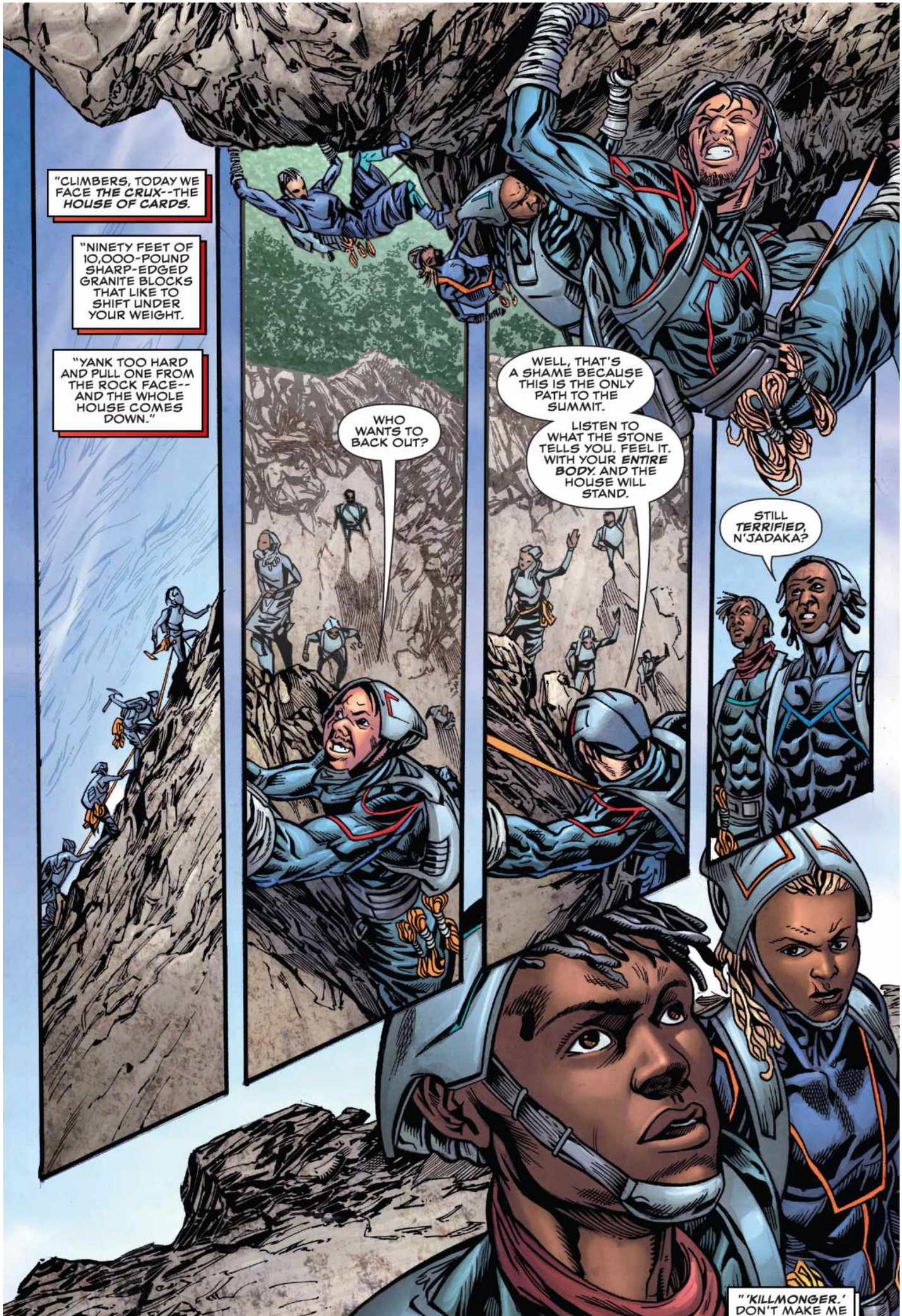
SIM!
I'M--AGH, I'M OKAY, I'M--I'M ALL RIGHT--
CAN'T BELIEVE IT, LONG AS I'VE KNOWN YOU...
...BET YOU'RE GLAD *NOW* THAT YOU WERE WEARING THAT HELMET!
SCREW YOU, "KILLMONGER."
SIMBARASHE, YOU ALL RIGHT? CAN YOU CONTINUE?
HELL YEAH, I'M SOLID, DZIG. THIS HUNK OF ROCK AIN'T CONQUERING *ME*, I'M CONQUERING *I*--
HOLY SHAAGH!
SIMBARASHE!!!
WHAT TH--?
OH MY GOD--

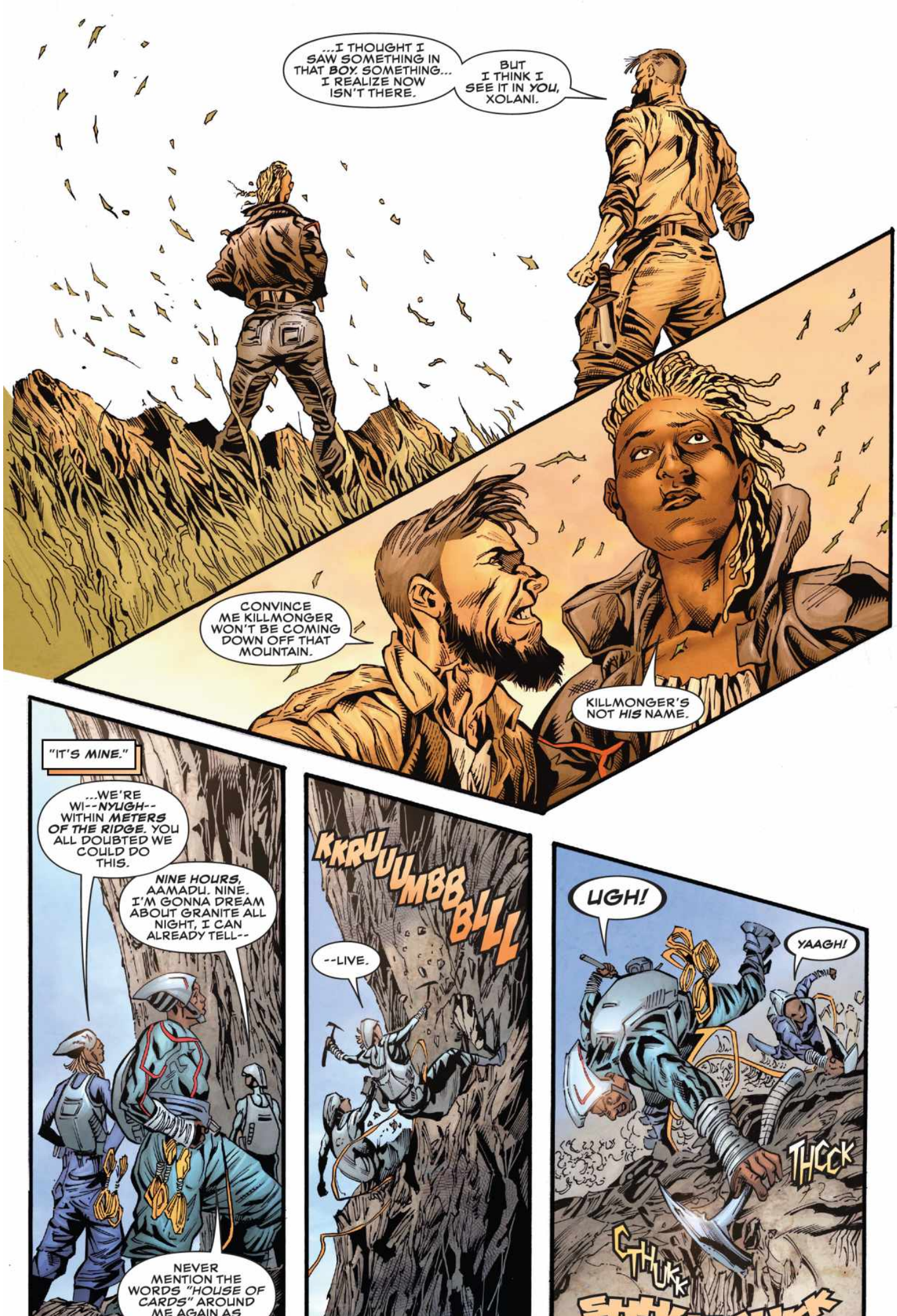

ELEVATION: 12,000 FT.
1800 HOURS.
WE SHOULD'VE DESCENDED THE SECOND HE FELL.
HOW CAN YOU ALL BE OKAY CONTINUING WITH SIM'S BODY DESTROYED AT THE FOOT OF THIS MOUNTAIN?!
THAT ISN'T THE QUESTION, AAMADU.
THE QUESTION IS HOW IT HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SIMBARASHE WAS AN EXPERIENCED CLIMBER--
HE WAS ALSO ARROGANT--
--WHO KNEW HIS GEAR. THAT WAS BRAND-NEW ROPE.
I SAW IT WHEN HE FELL, IT LOOKED TO ME LIKE IT SNAPPED--OR HAD BEEN CUT...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, N'JADAKA? ARE YOU ACCUSING ONE OF US? YOU ACCUSING ME? I WAS HIS CLIMBING PARTNER--
SHERPA DZIGBODE, NO, OF COURSE NOT... BUT WE SHOULD EXAMINE THE OTHER END OF THE ROPE--
I'VE ALREADY EXAMINED
FORGET ALL THAT--AAMADU'S RIGHT, WE NEED TO GO BACK.
KLAW WAS EXPLICIT. NO ONE DESCENDS WITHOUT A BUSHEL OF THE FRUIT OF KINGS--
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE FRUIT OF KINGS OR THE ROYAL FAMILY. THEY CAN ALL ROT IN HELL--
YEAH--
QUIET YOUR TONGUES. THE MONARCHY HAS EARS EVERYWHERE--EVEN ON COLOR OF DEATH.
...SORRY, N'JADAKA.
SAVE IT. THEY'RE ENEMIES--NOT FAMILY. ANYWAY, WE AIN'T GOING NOWHERE.

"...THERE'S A HEAT STORM COMING."
XOLANI. I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
I THINK ONE OF US KILLED SIMBARASHE.
I'M LISTENING.
KLAW GAVE ME A MISSION.
I HAVE TO...TO KILL A MEMBER OF THE GROUP.
AAMADU.
ZZZZZZZZZ
WHAT? AAMADU'S YOUR FRIEND, N'JADAKA.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS?
WE'RE SOLDIERS, XOLANI. YOU DO UNDERSTAND THAT.
KLAW'S BUILDING AN ARMY FOR WHEN HE MOVES HIS OPERATION TO AMERICA.
EXCEPT WE'VE ALL RUN AFOUL OF HIS GRACE IN SOME WAY SO HE'S THINNING OUT HIS RANKS TO ONLY THE MOST LOYAL.
THE MOST... BRUTAL.
THIS IS WHAT HE DOES-- COLLECTS LOST SOULS AND PLAYS THEM AGAINST EACH OTHER.
WHAT CRIME DID YOU COMMIT TO GET SENT ON THIS EXPEDITION?
...I SHOWED WEAKNESS.
YEAH. ME TOO.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA GO THROUGH WITH THIS.
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.


IT ISN'T REAL, YOU KNOW. THE FRUIT OF KINGS, SYMBOL OF THE GRAND WAKANDAN MONARCHY--IT'S ALL £%#%$#£.
I MEAN-- YOU SEE IT ON OUR MONEY, IT USED TO GROW IN ABUNDANCE ONLY AT COLOR OF DEATH'S SUMMIT, BUT IT HASN'T IN NEARLY A CENTURY.
WHAT?
THE ONLY THING WE HAVE IN COMMON IS THE ROYAL FAMILY WRONGED US ALL, N'JADAKA.
MY MOTHER TOLD ME ABOUT THE FRUIT. SHE SERVED THEM FOR DECADES, AND WHEN SHE GOT SICK THEY JUST LET HER DIE. THIS RAG IS ALL I HAVE LEFT OF HER.
THEY DIDN'T EVEN RAISE A VOICE FOR YOUR RETURN WHEN KLAW STOLE YOU FROM THEM.
THIS WHOLE THING IS KLAW'S SICK JOKE.
THE MONARCHY ARE EVIL. KLAW IS WORSE. I'VE MADE A DECISION, N'JADAKA.
WHEN WE GET BACK...I'M GOING TO KILL HIM. NO MATTER THE PRICE.
YOU TWO ARE WHISPERING LIKE CHILDREN WHEN YOU SHOULD BE RESTING UP FOR TOMORROW'S CLIMB.
YES, SHERPA.
XOLANI-- WHEN IT'S TIME...
...I'LL HELP YOU.

WEDNESDAY--1300 HOURS.
THURSDAY--2144 HOURS.
FRIDAY--0557 HOURS.
IT DOESN'T FEEL REAL. HOW COME THE WIND'S NOT TOSSING US ALL OVER ETERNITY?
LET'S MOVE. WE HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO RECOVER.
YES, DZIGBODE.
ARE YOU ALL INSANE?
AAMADU--
NO. SIM IS *DEAD*, AND WE USED UP HALF OUR RATIONS WAITING OUT THE STORM. WE HAVE T--
THAT JUST MEANS WE HAVE TO PUSH HARDER, AAMADU.
IF AAMADU WANTS TO DESCEND SO BADLY, I CAN SEND HIM DOWN *EXPRESS*--
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, N'JADAKA?
I--I--I'M SORRY, DZIGBODE. *AAMADU*--BROTHER,
SHERPA, LET'S


"CLIMBERS, TODAY WE FACE *THE CRUX*--THE *HOUSE OF CARDS*.
"NINETY FEET OF 10,000-POUND SHARP-EDGED GRANITE BLOCKS THAT LIKE TO SHIFT UNDER YOUR WEIGHT.
"YANK TOO HARD AND PULL ONE FROM THE ROCK FACE--AND THE WHOLE HOUSE COMES DOWN."
WHO WANTS TO BACK OUT?
WELL, THAT'S A SHAME BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY PATH TO THE SUMMIT.
LISTEN TO WHAT THE STONE TELLS YOU. FEEL IT. WITH YOUR *ENTIRE BODY*. AND THE HOUSE WILL STAND.
STILL *TERRIFIED*, N'JADAKA?
"'KILLMONGER.' DON'T MAKE ME


...I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING IN THAT BOY. SOMETHING... I REALIZE NOW ISN'T THERE.
BUT I THINK I SEE IT IN YOU, XOLANI.
CONVINCE ME KILLMONGER WON'T BE COMING DOWN OFF THAT MOUNTAIN.
KILLMONGER'S NOT HIS NAME.
"IT'S MINE."
...WE'RE WI--NYUGH-- WITHIN METERS OF THE RIDGE. YOU ALL DOUBTED WE COULD DO THIS.
NINE HOURS, AAMADU. NINE. I'M GONNA DREAM ABOUT GRANITE ALL NIGHT, I CAN ALREADY TELL--
NEVER MENTION THE WORDS "HOUSE OF CARDS" AROUND ME AGAIN AS
KKRUUUMBBLLL
--LIVE.
UGH!
YAAGH!
THCCK
THUKK

N'JADAKA--
--WE HAVE TO SWING OVER TO THOSE LEDGES RIGHT--
--NOW!
SEE, THAT SAVED US!
NOT ALL OF US!
GENET!
BOOF
BASSEL, YOU GOTTA CUT THE ROPE, CUT IT NOW--
N'JADAKA! I CAN FEEL THE ROCKS SHIFTING--
CUT THE--
RRUMMMMBL

SLICE
WHAT... IN GOD'S NAME...JUST HAPPENED?
WE'RE ALIVE. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS"?! GENET IS DEAD!
SHE'S DEAD-- DID YOU SEE WHAT THAT ROCK DID TO HER?!?!
AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT NOW!
...IF SHE WERE HERE--GENET WOULD WANT ME TO TELL YOU ALL...CONGRATULATIONS. WE'RE NOW AT 25,000 FEET.
REST UP AND THEN WE'LL PREP FOR OUR SUMMIT BID...THIS ENDS TONIGHT.
YOU'VE ALL

UGGHRGGH.
AAMADU!!!
AND JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR--
--YES, N'JADAKA, I DID IN FACT CUT SIMBARASHE'S ROPE! I'D HAVE HAD MORE RESPECT FOR YOU IF YOU'D JUST COME OUT AND SAID IT.
HE WASN'T EVEN MY TARGET. I GET IT, NONE OF YOU HAD ANY CHOICE, RIGHT? IS THAT WHAT YOU ALL TELL YOURSELVES? NONE OF YOU ARE WORTHY OF REDEMPTION!
MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHO KILLS WHO.
YOU CAN ALL DROP THE SHOCKED ACT. YOU'VE ALL BEEN TARGETED FOR DEATH BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THIS GROUP, EVERYONE HERE KNOWS IT!
I'M THE ONLY ONE MAKING IT OFF COLOR OF DEATH ALIVE! I AM COLOR OF DEATH!
AAMADU WAS MY FRIEND!
AAMADU WAS YOUR PREY. I JUST DID YOU A FAVOR. YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GO THROUGH WITH IT.
KLAW CHOSE FOOLISHLY WITH YOU. YOU'RE NO %$#@£$# "KILLMONGER."

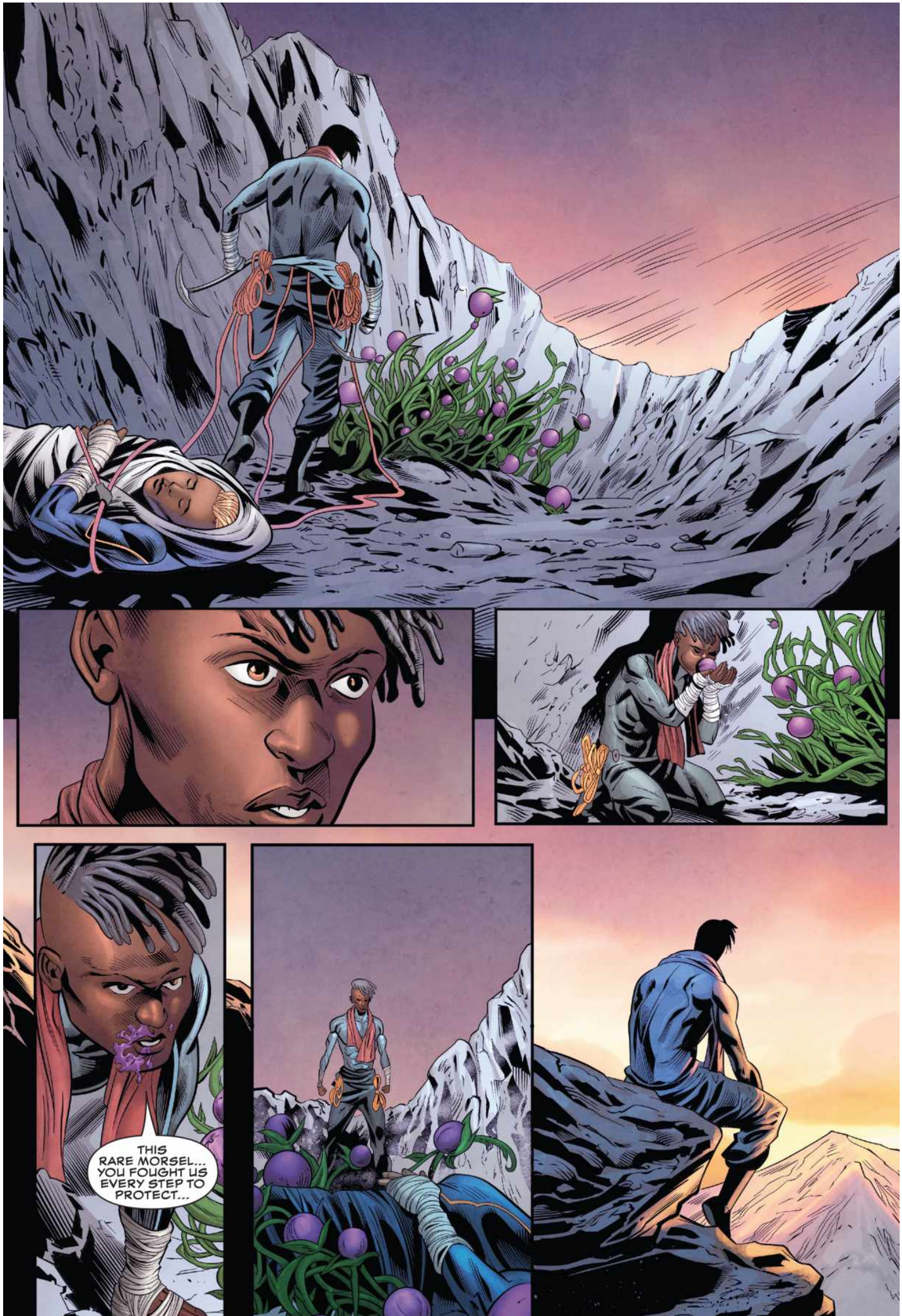
FFZZZZSSTT
MORE FAVORS--AM I NOT GENEROUS, CLIMBERS? IZAAK WAS YOUR TARGET, BASSEL. YOU'RE VERY WELCOME, LAD!
DZIGBODE, PLEASE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO T--
FFZZZZSSTT
FFZZZZSSSSTTT
SPRAGH
OH YES--

UNH!
RAHHHGGARRR!!!
KKKRAKK
MMMRRRRLLL
SHERPA-- WHAT'S MY NAME?
LLMMKKRRRRMMMMKKRCAGHH
DDGGGKKCKCC--

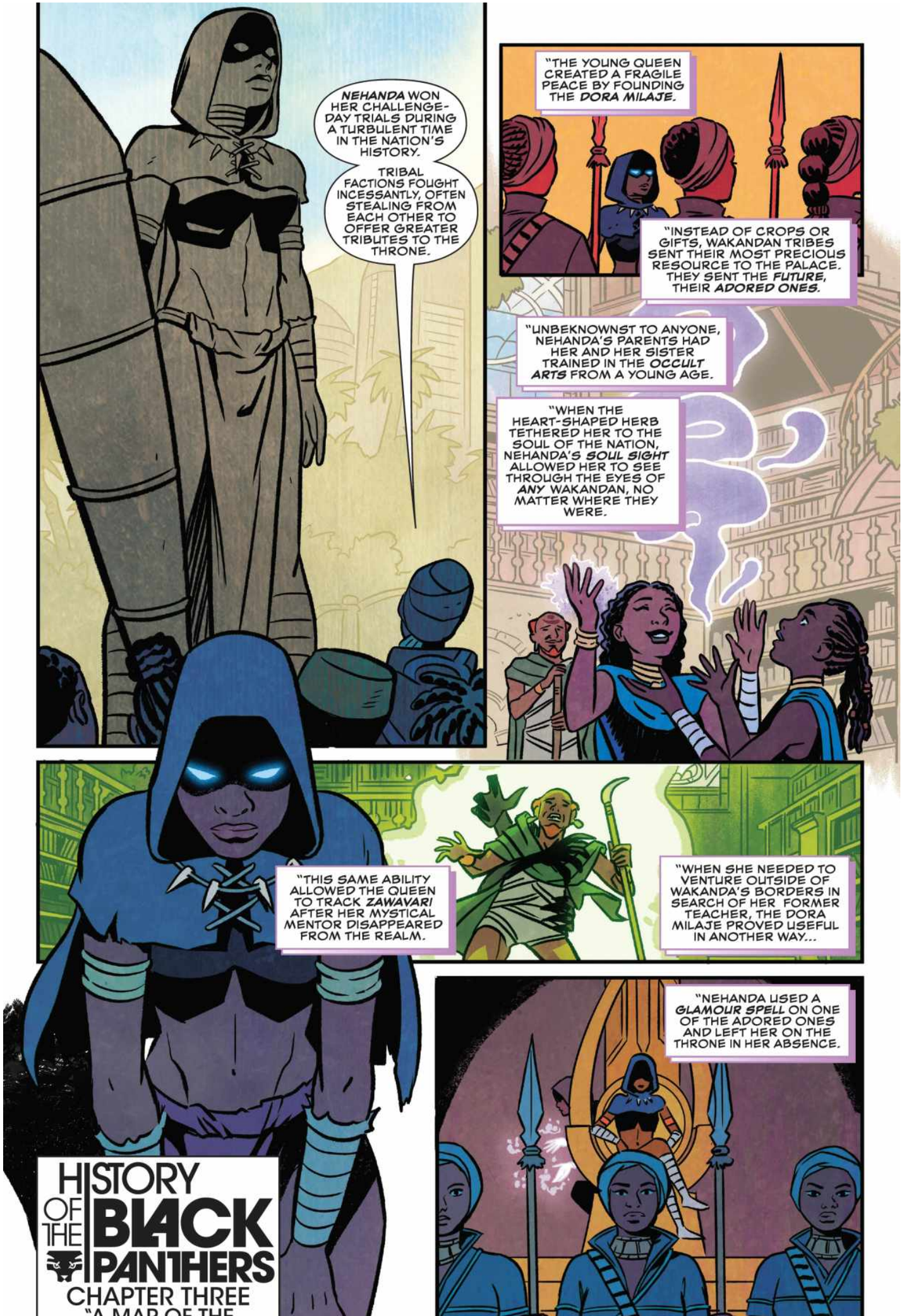
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE HERE I REALLY TRUSTED.
I KNOW. I'M SORRY.
I GUESS--

NFF!

ELEVATION: 26,000 FT.


THIS RARE MORSEL... YOU FOUGHT US EVERY STEP TO PROTECT...

HA! I KNEW IT! LOOK AT YOU! I KNEW I'D SEE THAT GORGEOUS BROKEN FACE AGAIN! I KNEW IT'D BE YOU AND YOU ALONE.
MY BOY. MY KILLMONGER!
OHHHH, HAHAHA, OKAY, LAD, I HAVE TO ADMIT I ADMIRE THE...
...THE CONFIDENCE...
WHAT'S THIS, THEN?


NEHANDA WON HER CHALLENGE-DAY TRIALS DURING A TURBULENT TIME IN THE NATION'S HISTORY.
TRIBAL FACTIONS FOUGHT INCESSANTLY, OFTEN STEALING FROM EACH OTHER TO OFFER GREATER TRIBUTES TO THE THRONE.
"THE YOUNG QUEEN CREATED A FRAGILE PEACE BY FOUNDING THE DORA MILAJE.
"INSTEAD OF CROPS OR GIFTS, WAKANDAN TRIBES SENT THEIR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE TO THE PALACE. THEY SENT THE FUTURE, THEIR ADORED ONES.
"UNBEKNOWNST TO ANYONE, NEHANDA'S PARENTS HAD HER AND HER SISTER TRAINED IN THE OCCULT ARTS FROM A YOUNG AGE.
"WHEN THE HEART-SHAPED HERB TETHERED HER TO THE SOUL OF THE NATION, NEHANDA'S SOUL SIGHT ALLOWED HER TO SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF ANY WAKANDAN, NO MATTER WHERE THEY WERE.
"THIS SAME ABILITY ALLOWED THE QUEEN TO TRACK ZAWAVARI AFTER HER MYSTICAL MENTOR DISAPPEARED FROM THE REALM.
"WHEN SHE NEEDED TO VENTURE OUTSIDE OF WAKANDA'S BORDERS IN SEARCH OF HER FORMER TEACHER, THE DORA MILAJE PROVED USEFUL IN ANOTHER WAY...
"NEHANDA USED A GLAMOUR SPELL ON ONE OF THE ADORED ONES AND LEFT HER ON THE THRONE IN HER ABSENCE.
HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHERS
CHAPTER THREE

"A CULT HAD TAKEN ZAWAVARI BECAUSE HE'D TRAVELED ACROSS ANCIENT MULTIVERSES.
"THEY ALSO STOLE OTHER *MYSTICAL ARTIFACTS* AND USED VIBRANIUM TO AMPLIFY THEIR SPELL...
"...AIMING TO FREE *SUMA-KET*, AN ANCIENT ATLANTEAN TYRANT WHO HAD BEEN EXILED TO ANOTHER DIMENSION.
"NEHANDA JOINED A GROUP OF FAR-FLUNG WARRIORS LOOKING TO *AVENGE* THESE THEFTS. LIKE MOSI BEFORE HER, SHE FOUND HERSELF AMONG *LEGENDS*.
"AN *IRON FIST* FROM BENEATH THE WAVES. A WITCH EMPOWERED BY THE *PHOENIX FORCE* ITSELF. A *RAMPAGING VIKING*.
"A YETI MAN-BEAST WHO REIGNED AS *SORCERER SUPREME*. A YOUNG *GOD OF THUNDER*. AND A *SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE* WHO CROSSED THE SEAS.
"NEHANDA USED HER *SONIC SHIELD* TO BAR SUMA-KET'S ENTRY WHILE HER SOUL SIGHT LOCATED AN OUTER REALM TO SERVE AS HIS NEW PRISON.
"SHE HELPED BRING JUSTICE TO A WORLD STILL IGNORANT OF WAKANDA'S EXISTENCE.
"QUEEN NEHANDA TOOK LOVERS BUT LEFT NO HEIR. STILL, SHE LEFT A LEGACY THAT CHANGED WAKANDA FOREVER, CREATING AN INSTITUTION THAT PROTECTS US TO THIS DAY."

HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHERS

ANNOTATIONS

1. The **Challenge Day** is an annual Wakandan tradition when the fiercest warriors challenge the current Black Panther for the position to ensure that only the mightiest warrior governs Wakanda; the role holder has changed as a result of these challenges in the past, as when T'Challa won the right to become Black Panther from his uncle, S'Yan. ***Black Panther #8 (1978)***

2. The **Dora Milaje** ("Adored Ones") arose from a Wakandan tradition created to help keep peace between the different tribes in Wakanda. Young female representatives are chosen from every tribe to become highly trained warriors and serve as ceremonial bodyguards for the Black Panther. In recent times, they expanded their roster significantly to become an army numbering in the hundreds. ***Black Panther #1 (1998)***

3. **Zawavari** is a centuries-old Wakandan sorcerer who gained King T'Challa's trust after bringing T'Challa's spirit back from a near-death state and returning him to health. Zawavari has since aided Wakanda against numerous threats with his vast magical abilities. ***Black Panther #3 (2009)***; Zawavari hinted of his journeys (such as those across ancient Multiverses) in ***Black Panther #10 (2010)***

4. In roughly 5800 BCE, ancient necromancer **Suma-Ket** of the Unforgiven Dead tribe aided Atlantis against the demonic Faceless Ones, soon becoming a messianic figure to the Atlanteans, who feared his wrath. As Suma-Ket's rule became tyrannical and violent, the Atlanteans rose up and exiled him to the mystic Grey Waters realm. Re-emerging on the Earthly plane in the modern era, Suma-Ket sought to regain his former glory by attacking Atlantis but was ultimately killed by Namor the Sub-Mariner. (Behind-the-scenes) ***Namor the Sub-Mariner #35 (1993)***; (fully seen) ***Namor the Sub-Mariner #36 (1993)***

5. Modeled after a gathering of superhuman beings founded by the Asgardian Odin Borson in 1,000,000 BCE, Odin's son Thor brought together a **group of far-flung warriors** in the eleventh century to defend the Earth from threats such as the ancient mutant Apocalypse (En Sabah Nur). Among this grouping was Nehanda, who was covered in the annotations for ***Wakanda #1 (2022)***, and her sonic shield. (On stone carving) ***Mighty Thor #7 (2016)***; (fully seen) ***King Thor #4 (2020)***

6. The remainder of characters, events, locations and items in this story all first appear in this issue, ***Wakanda #3 (2022)***.

ANNOTATIONS BY MARKUS RAYMOND AND JACOB ROUGEMONT

ART BY ADAM GORHAM, RAY-ANTHONY HEIGHT, SCOTT KOLINS, AARON KUDER, JOHN ROMITA JR. AND WILFREDO TORRES

NEXT:

WAKANDA #4

From his breakneck run on **BLACK PANTHER**, writer **John Ridley** brings the new hero **Tosin** to center stage with art by **Julian Shaw**! Forbidden romance and a dark prophecy loom in this story about what it means to be a true hero. With T'Challa in exile, Tosin must step up and protect his nation when the **Abomination** attacks a vibranium mine. But as Tosin strives to be a great warrior, will the pressures of his future shatter the life he is building for himself now?

AND the next "History of the Black Panthers" chapter tackles **Benhazin** and some of the bloody conflicts of Wakanda's past…

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ZONE